

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A telecommunications network simplifies data flow and signaling by having a second control node (26<sub>2</sub>) of a radio access network transmit cell information to a first control node (26<sub>1</sub>) only when the cell information is not already known by the first control node. The invention is facilitated by a cell configuration generation index (CCGI). The cell configuration generation index (CCGI) represents a set of cell information parameters deemed current for a specified cell by a control node. In one example embodiment, the cell configuration generation index (CCGI) is a counter whose value is changed when configuration data of the specified cell is changed. In one example scenario, a cell identifier for the specified cell and the first control node's CCGI for the specified cell are included in a request message sent from the first control node to the second control node. If the second control node determines that the first control node's CCGI for the specified cell is current, no cell information for the specified cell need be sent by the second control node to the first control node in response. However, if the second control node determines that the first control node's CCGI for the specified cell is not current, the second control node includes in a response message both (1) the cell information deemed current by the second control node for the specified cell; and (2) second control node's CCGI (which is current and accurate) for the specified cell.